



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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TWO VETERAN ATTORNEYS LEAVING CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO JOIN PRIVATE LAW FIRM *AGUIRRE PRAISES DEPARTING STAFF MEMBERS*

San Diego, CA: City Attorney Michael Aguirre today announced that Assistant City Attorney Les Girard and Chief Deputy City Attorney Mike McGuinness have decided to pursue new opportunities in the private sector.

"Les and Mike have for many years been valuable employees of the City Attorney's Office," said City Attorney Aguirre. "I am grateful that they agreed to stay on after I took office. Both personally assisted me when I faced the challenges of being a newly elected City Attorney. I wish them the best as they move on in their careers."

Mr. Girard and Mr. McGuinness, who will be joining McKenna, Long & Aldridge, will specialize in government-related transactional and litigation work. Mr. Girard has served as Assistant City Attorney for Special Projects since 1996 and was an integral part of the team that negotiated and implemented the downtown Ballpark and Redevelopment Project. In addition, he has worked on numerous complex lawsuits and most recently was the City Attorney's liaison to the Mayor and City Council.

"I was honored that Mr. Aguirre asked me to stay on during the initial phase of his term," Mr. Girard said. "I am now ready for new challenges and opportunities in my career, and I look forward to building a practice with Mr. McGuinness at McKenna, Long & Aldridge, a nationally renowned firm."

Mr. McGuinness has most recently served as head of the Specialty Litigation Section of the City Attorney's Office. Previously, he led the Construction Litigation Unit, which was successful in developing in-house experience in complex construction matters and which brought in millions of dollars in recoveries for the City and its residents. In 2001, he was named City Attorney of the Year.

Mr. Girard, a native San Diegan, has been with the City Attorney's Office since graduating from Georgetown University Law Center in 1981. Mr. McGuinness, a native of Connecticut, started with the City following his 1987 graduation from California Western School of Law. Both Mr. Girard and Mr. McGuinness will remain at the City Attorney's office through September 23, 2005.

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